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REMARKS

In a paper mailed April 5, 2005, the Examiner requested restriction between the claims of Group I (Claims 1-13 and 25-27) drawn to a method to access consent by an authority, the claims of Group II (Claims 14-24) drawn to a method for providing data to a third party and the claims of Group III (Claims 28-31) drawn to a method for creating a meta-directory. In the present Office Action, the Examiner repeated the restriction requirement and made it Final under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.144. Accordingly, Applicants cancel claims 1-13 and 25-31 drawn to non-elected Groups.

Applicants thank Examiner Popham for the courtesy of a telephone interview granted to Applicants' attorney and Applicant Christopher Woods on March 9, 2006. The substance of that interview appears in the Remarks that follow. Five slides were presented during that interview. Copies of those slides are appended. Slide 5 presented a proposed amendment to Claim 14 that was discussed during the telephone interview. Claim 14 as presented herein has been further amended as a result of the interview.

Applicants' invention, as embodied in Claim 14, is drawn to a method for a host to provide known data about an entity to a third party. Release of this data requires the entity's authorization. There is both a preexisting relationship between the entity and the host and an indicator whereby the third party is able to recognize the entity as a member of the service of the host. As embodied in Applicants' claims 16 and 17, the indicator that the entity is a member of the service of the host may be digitally transmitted data. As such, the third party is directed to contact the host to receive specific information about the entity. The host identifies the information requested by the third party and presents that information to the entity. On the entity's authorization, the information is delivered to the third party.

The Examiner suggested that the Applicants more definitively recite that there is a preexisting relationship between the entity and the host and that the entity identifies to the third party which host to contact for access to restricted information. Claim 14 has been so amended.

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Support for this amendment is found in Applicants' Specification at page 1, lines 10-12, page 7, lines 11-19 and replacement drawing sheet 4.

Applicants' claims 14-17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Aieta, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,269,349). Aieta, et al. is drawn to a financial system where a bonding agent provides assurance that a vendor does not misuse restricted information of an entity. If the restricted information is misused, the bonding agent compensates the entity for damages suffered. Referring to attached slide 1, Applicants' invention as embodied in line 3 of currently amended Claim 14 recites that there is a pre-existing relationship between the entity and the host Aieta et al. is drawn to a bonding agent that insures a 3rd party does not misuse personal information of an entity. As such, Aieta et al. disclose a pre-existing relationship between the third party and the bonding agent. In Applicants' invention, there is no need for a pre-existing relationship between the host and third party while in Aieta et al., there is no need for a pre-existing relationship between the user and the bonding agent, rather the user needs to be referred to the agent bonding the particular server of interest.

The Aieta, et al. system assumes that the client and the server have a common interest, such as the purchase of a product, and that the transfer of personal information will facilitate that transaction. In Aieta et al., the server has a pre-existing relationship with the bonding agent. Contrast the prior art with Applicants' claimed system that is effective when there is no preexisting relationship between the third party and the host. Applicants' claimed system provides a mechanism whereby the entity notifies the third party of the need to work via a specific host, see attached slide 3. This feature of Applicants' invention is embodied in lines 4-6 of currently amended claim 14. The Examiner identifies Aieta, et al. at column 7, lines 14-22, as anticipating this feature of Applicants' invention. However, the cited lines of the reference disclose that when a user associated with a client decides to purchase an item or services from a server, the user initiates communication with the server and the server notifies the bonding agent of the types of private information the server requests from the user. The Aieta et al. disclosure teaches and suggests a preexisting relationship between the server and the bonding agent whereby the server selects the bonding agent. The reference system teaches away from

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Applicants' claimed invention where the entity (client) notifies a third party (server) of the proper host (bonding agent) to contact for requested restricted information.

There is nothing in Aieta, et al. to teach or suggest a preexisting relationship between an entity (client) and a host (bonding agent), as opposed to a bonding agent and a server whereby the third party (server) requesting the information contacts the host designated by the entity for that information. Further, there is nothing in Aieta, et al. to teach or suggest a mechanism whereby restricted information may flow to a third party that has not registered with a specific host (bonding agent).

Applicant's claims are neither taught nor suggested by the Aieta, et al. reference and should be allowed over the cited reference.

Claims 18, 19, 21, 22, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 in view of Aieta, et al. combined with at least one additional reference. However, none of the combination of references teaches or suggests a permission based data exchange as claimed by the Applicants wherein the entity identifies to a third party the host to contact for access to restricted information. Applicants' claims should be allowed over the cited combination of references.

Applicants' amendment to claim 14 more precisely defines Applicants' invention and does not constitute new matter requiring additional search. The amendment is believed to place the claims in condition for allowance, or in the alternative, in better condition for appeal. As such, it is believed that the amendment is proper under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.116 and its entry is respectfully solicited.

Applicants submit that none of the references, alone or in combination, anticipate or make obvious the invention as presently claimed and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and further examination of the application and the Examiner is respectfully requested to take such proper actions so that a patent will issue herefrom as soon as possible.

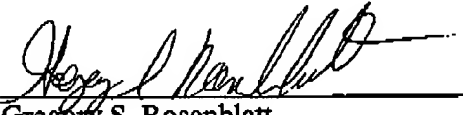
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If the Examiner has any questions or believes that a discussion with Applicants' attorney would expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Please apply any credits or charge any deficiencies to our Deposit Account No. 23-1665.

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher E. Woods, et al.

Date: March 16, 2006



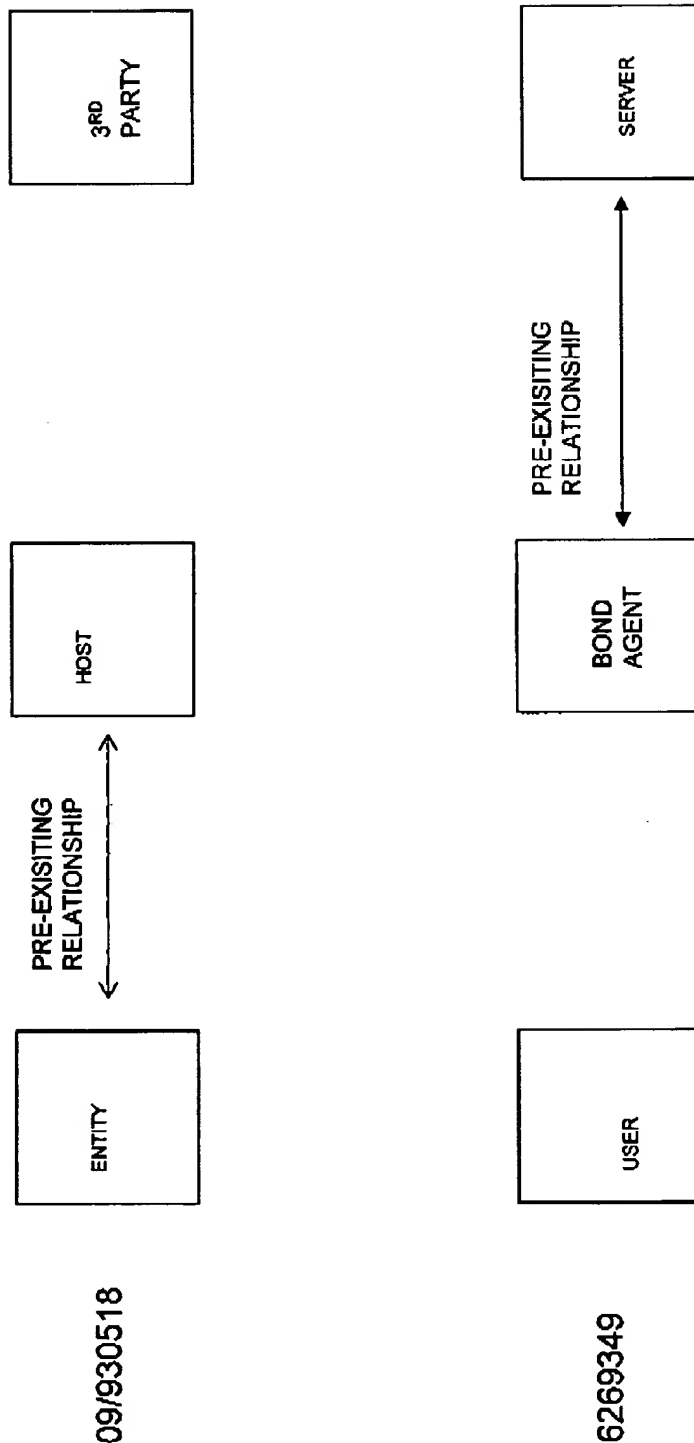
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APPLICATION OF WOODS ET AL.
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SLIDE 1

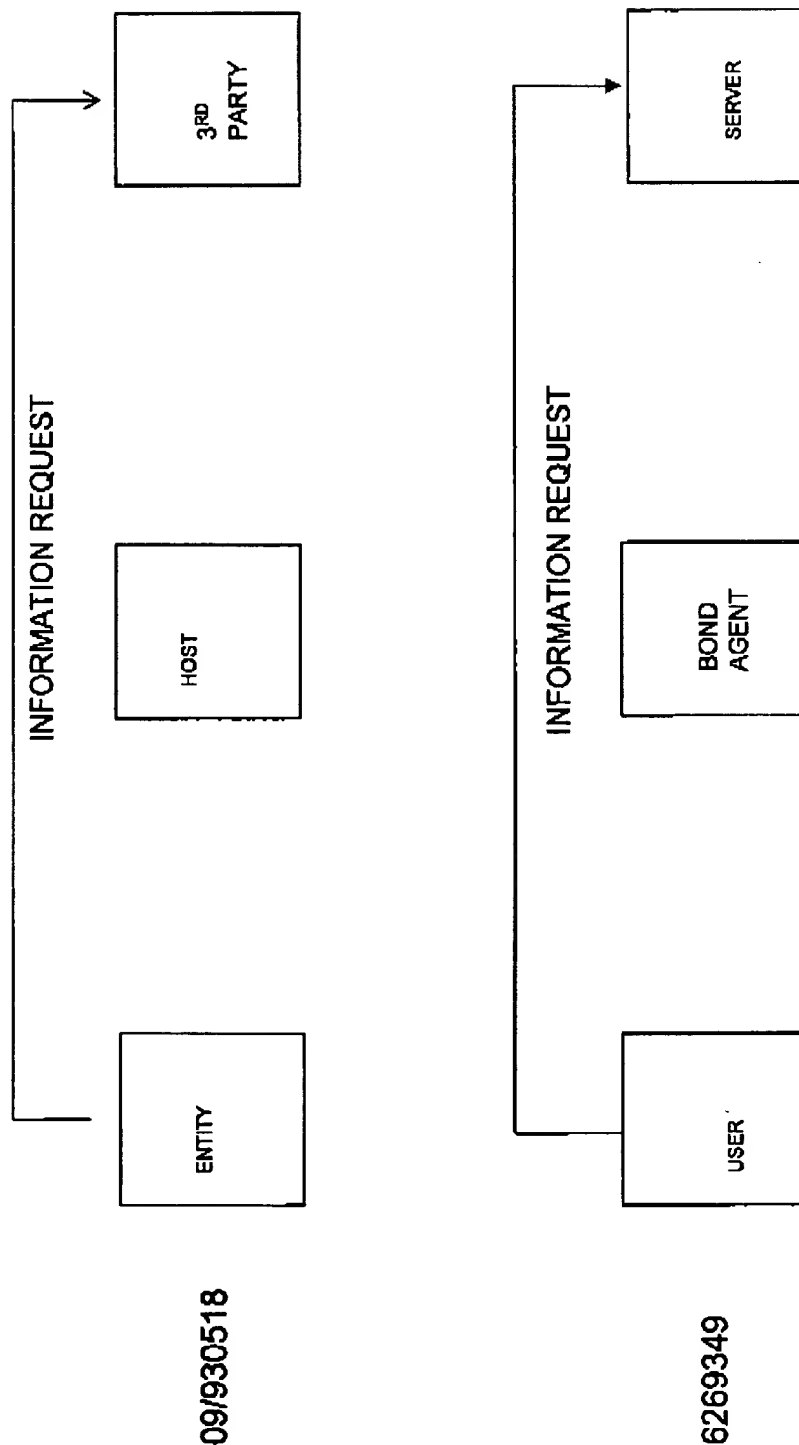


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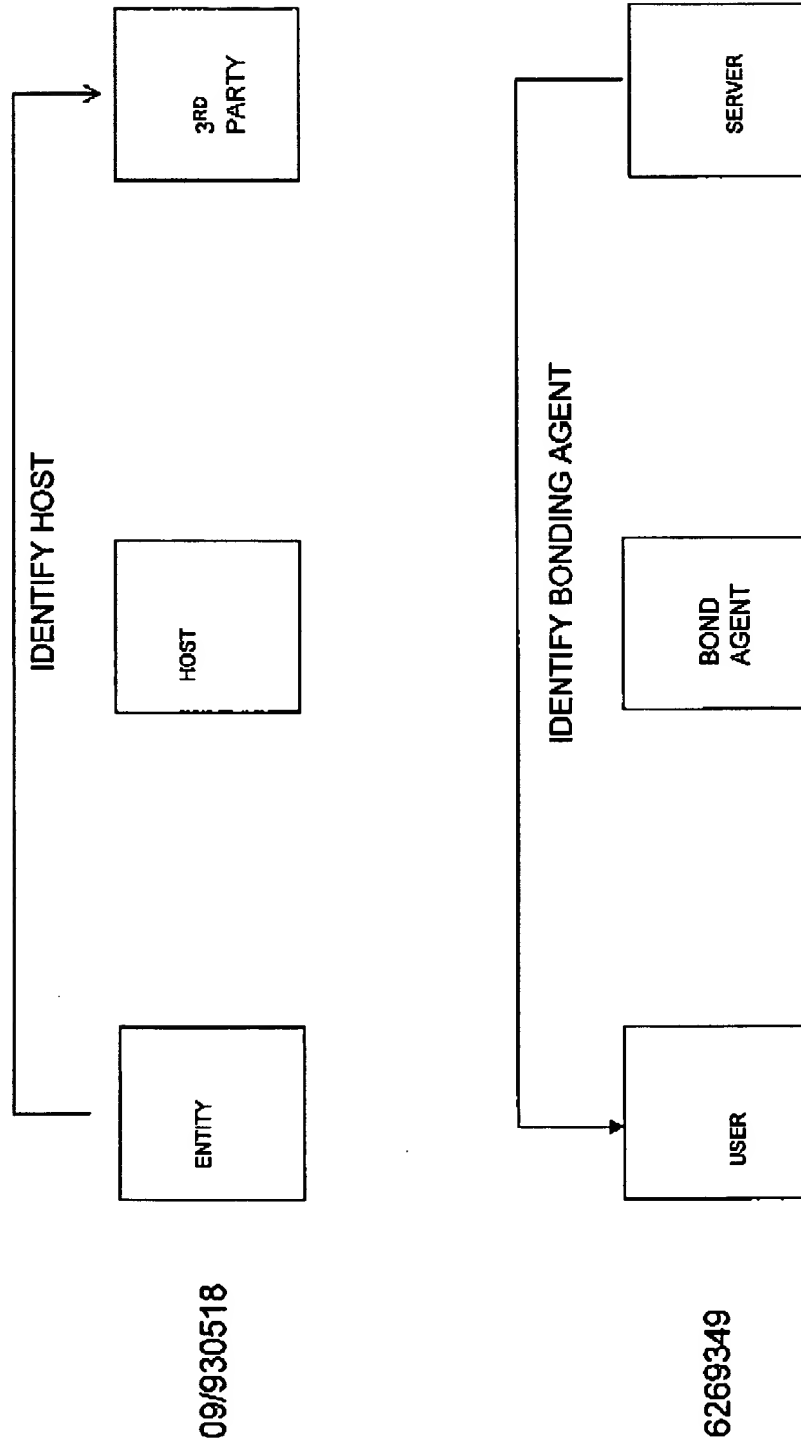
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SLIDE 2



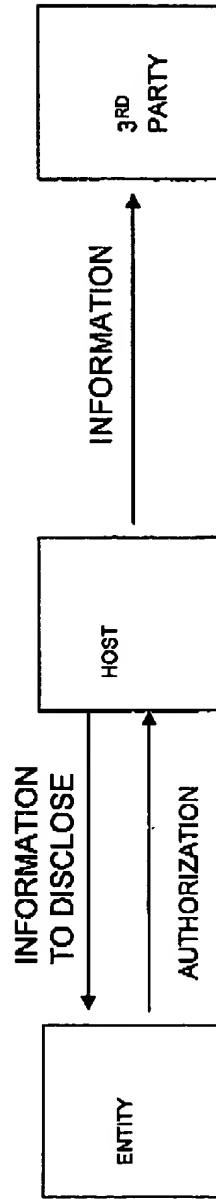
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SLIDE 3

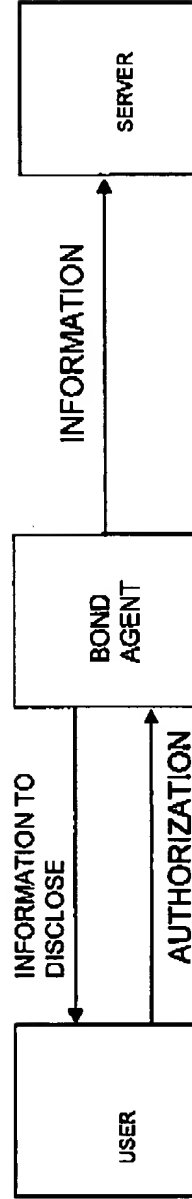


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SLIDE 4



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SLIDE 5

14. (Currently Amended) A method for a host to provide known data about an entity to a third party pursuant to said entity's authorization, comprising the steps of:

providing a means for said entity to identify said host to contact for access to restricted information and for said third party to recognize said entity as a member of a service of said host;

responsive to said recognition, said host receiving a request from said third party for specific information about said entity;
said host surveying at least one data repository for said specific information about said entity;

said host displaying said specific information about said entity to said entity and requesting authorization from said entity to provide at least a portion of said specific information to said third party; and
responsive to an opting in of said entity, said host providing at least a portion of said specific information to said third party.